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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) There is no project now by the name of Siddeswaram Project. If the Member refers to the Siddeswaram reservoir part of the Krishna-Pennar Project, the answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The whole question of utilisation of the waters of the Krishna and what schemes should be included in the integrated project to be included in the Five-Year Plan is being examined by the Planning Commission and its final decision is awaited."

Drinking-water wells in Wandiwash.

* 759 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any drinking-water wells were executed in Wandiwash since 1950 and if so, how many of them are now in good condition?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (1) No wells were sunk in Wandiwash Panchayat since 1950 by the Government; but 12 existing wells in the Panchayat area were deepened due to adverse seasonal conditions and they are in good condition.

" (2) One hundred and sixteen wells were sunk since 1950 in Wandiwash taluk under the Rural Water-Supply Scheme and 70 wells were deepened. All of them are in good condition."

Improvement to the Thalugai Bathirpettai Tank Irrigation in Musiri taluk.

* 760 *Q.*—SRI N. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any representation made in 1947 to improve the Thalugai Bathirpettai Tank Irrigation in Musiri taluk in Tiruchirappalli district ; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken to effect improvement to the tank?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) No representation was received in 1947, but representations were received in 1946 and in 1950 for restoring 2 different tanks in the village.

" (*b*) The Government examined the cases in consultation with the Chief Engineer (Irrigation). It was found in the first case, viz., the Talugai tank, that it was not feasible, as the restoration of the tank would involve submersion of 100 acres of good paddy fields to benefit 160 acres of dry lands which were neither favourably situated nor were of promising quality. The petitioner was therefore informed accordingly. The restoration of the second tank (a private kuttai in S. No. 178) was also found not feasible since it involved the

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submersion of 20·36 acres of fertile tank-bed lands for new irrigation of an extent of 18·89 acres. The proposal was therefore dropped.''

Sale of cultivable Government waste lands last year.

* 761 Q.—SRI G. RAMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total extent of cultivable Government waste land sold by Government last year in the State; and

(b) the total extent of land out of (a) sold to landlords, the extent sold to the landless poor and the extent sold to Harijans?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—'' (a) & (b) The information is not available.''

Elections to the minor panchayats in Guntur district.

* 762 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations by some Members of the Legislative Assembly have been received in January 1953 alleging gross and anti-democratic practices on the part of officers entrusted with the conduct of elections in minor panchayats in Guntur district, and whether the Government enquired into such cases; and if so, with what results; and

(b) what action the Government have taken to ensure free and fair elections in future?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—'' (a) Yes. The petitions were enquired into and the allegations were found to be baseless.

'' (b) Government have no reason to think that elections to panchayats are not being conducted freely and fairly. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has issued a set of comprehensive instructions to election officers to ensure proper polling. Drastic action will be taken against any election officer for misconduct in holding elections, if such misconduct is proved after due enquiry.''

Cauvery-Mettur Project Scheme in Arantangi taluk.

* 763 Q.—SRI MAHAMED SALIH MARAIKAYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a proposal to extend the Narasingha Cauvery C.M.P. Scheme south of Vellar in Arantangi taluk;

(b) whether the channel was dug by the ryots at their own cost;

(c) whether water was supplied to the tanks south of Vellar and whether water-cess was collected even though the channel was so dug by the ryots; and